

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A *Eustoma* plant having reduced apical dominance.

5 2. The *Eustoma* plant of claim 1 which contains an allele for reduced apical dominance.

10 3. A *Eustoma* plant having reduced apical dominance, wherein the plant has a pedigree which includes the plant 752 or derivatives thereof.

15 4. Seed of the plant of claims 1, 2 or 3.

5. Pollen of the plant of claims 1, 2 or 3.

15 6. An ovule of the plant of claims 1, 2 or 3.

20 7. A tissue culture comprising regenerable cells of the plant of claims 1 or 3.

8. A cutting of the plant of claims 1, 2 or 3.

9. *Eustoma* seed containing an allele for reduced apical dominance.

25 10. *Eustoma* seed containing an allele for reduced apical dominance, wherein the seed has a pedigree which includes the plant 752 or derivatives thereof.

11. A *Eustoma* plant produced by growing the seed of claims 9 or 10.

12. A reduced apical dominance allele which when expressed in a *Eustoma* plant produces a reduced apical dominant phenotype in said plant.

13. A method for producing  $F_1$  hybrid *Eustoma* seed, the method comprising the steps of crossing a first parent *Eustoma* plant with a second parent *Eustoma* plant and harvesting the resultant  $F_1$  hybrid *Eustoma* seed, wherein the first and second parent *Eustoma* plant is the *Eustoma* plant of claims 1, 2 or 3.

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14. A first generation ( $F_1$ ) hybrid *Eustoma* plant produced by growing the hybrid *Eustoma* seed of claim 13.

10 15. A process for identifying a *Eustoma* plant, the genome of which contains an allele for reduced apical dominance, the process comprising the steps of:

crossing a *Eustoma* plant to be tested with a *Eustoma* plant the genome of which contains an allele for reduced apical dominance;

recovering the resulting  $F_1$  hybrid *Eustoma* seed;

planting the  $F_1$  hybrid *Eustoma* seed and regenerating into plants; and

15 selecting *Eustoma* plants the genome of which contains an allele for reduced apical dominance and which exhibit a reduced apical dominance phenotype.

16. A process of obtaining hybrid *Eustoma* seed, the genome of which contains an allele for reduced apical dominance, the process comprising the steps of:

20 crossing a *Eustoma* plant obtained by the process of claim 15 with a *Eustoma* plant the genome of which contains an allele for reduced apical dominance; and

recovering the resulting hybrid *Eustoma* seed, the genome of which contains an allele for reduced apical dominance.

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17. A process for obtaining a hybrid *Eustoma* plant, the genome of which contains an allele for reduced apical dominance, the process comprising the steps of:

crossing a *Eustoma* plant obtained by the process of claim 15 with a *Eustoma* plant the genome of which contains an allele for reduced apical dominance;

recovering the resulting hybrid *Eustoma* seed; and  
planting the hybrid *Eustoma* seed and regenerating into plants, the genome of which  
contains the allele for reduced apical dominance.

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18. Viable *Eustoma* seeds and plants and succeeding generations thereof grown  
from seeds deposited under ATCC Accession number 203392 and *Eustoma* seeds and  
plants to which the allele for reduced apical dominance is transferred from the deposited  
seeds in succeeding generations thereof.

*add  
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